

HOUSE RESOLUTION 307

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the 125th anniversary of the Orange Mound neighborhood of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should join with the citizens of the communities that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Orange Mound, a neighborhood in Memphis, are most assuredly deserving of special recognition, as they commemorated the community's 125th anniversary on May 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the first African-American neighborhood in the United States to be built by African Americans, the community was developed on the grounds of the former Deaderick plantation in the 1890s to provide affordable land and residences for the less wealthy; and

WHEREAS, Orange Mound is bounded by Lamar Avenue to the south, the Southern Avenue/Illinois Central Railroad tracks to the north, East Parkway South and Cooper Street to the west, and Semmes Street to the east; and

WHEREAS, Orange Mound is the only community in America with six churches over 100 years old that are now eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Several of these congregations include descendants of the original church founders; and

WHEREAS, the illustrious W.C. Handy Theater in Orange Mound enjoyed appearances and performances by such legends as Jackie Robinson, Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughn, Elvis Presley, and namesake, W.C. Handy; and

WHEREAS, Orange Mound has been home to countless successful men and women in a variety of fields of endeavor, including Charles Lloyd, Judge Odgell Horton, Willie Mitchell, Johnny London, Kirk Whalum, Larry Wiley, Ralph Wiley, Dr. W.A. Bisson, the Original Aunt

Jemima, Harper Brewer, and Dr. Alvin Crawford, the first African-American doctor to graduate from the University of Tennessee Medical School; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the 125th anniversary, the United States Postal Service honored Orange Mound with the release of a postal cachet issued from the Orange Mound Post Office on May 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor this fine community and its citizenry on this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and applaud the 125-year history of Orange Mound and its citizens and extend to them our best wishes for the neighborhood's every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.